



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# Iowa Ag News – Farms and Land in Farms



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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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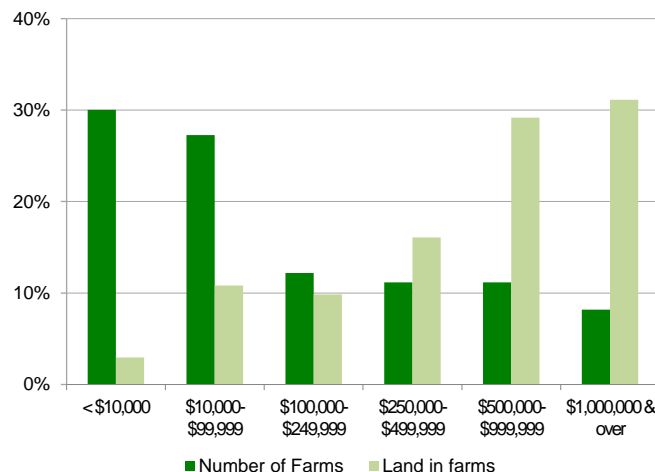
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The total number of farms in Iowa in 2017 was 86,900, down 100 farms compared with a year ago, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farms and Land in Farms 2017 Summary* report. The largest decrease in number of farms came in the \$500,000-\$999,999 range with a decrease of 300 farms from 10,000 in 2016 to 9,700 in 2017.

Total land in farms in Iowa in 2017 was 30.5 million acres, unchanged since 2014, however, total land in farms in the \$100,000-\$249,999 range rose to 3.00 million acres, while total land in farms in the \$1,000,000 and over range fell to 9.50 million acres.

The average farm size in Iowa in 2017 was 351 acres, unchanged from last year. The average farm size in the \$500,000-\$999,999 range increased 28 acres from 890 in 2016 to 918 acres in 2017.

**Farms and Land in Farms  
Percent by Sales Class - Iowa: 2017**



## Farms and Land in Farms, by Sales Class – Iowa: 2013-2017

[Farms and ranches are classified in "sales classes" by summing sales of agricultural products and government program payments.]

	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$249,999	\$250,000- \$499,999	\$500,000- \$999,999	\$1,000,000 & over	Total
<b>Number of Farms</b>							
2013 .....	27,500	23,600	10,300	9,700	10,000	7,400	88,500
2014 .....	27,100	23,600	10,400	9,600	10,000	7,300	88,000
2015 .....	26,600	23,600	10,400	9,700	9,900	7,300	87,500
2016 .....	26,000	23,800	10,300	9,700	10,000	7,200	87,000
2017 .....	26,100	23,700	10,600	9,700	9,700	7,100	86,900
<b>Land in Farms, 1,000 acres</b>							
2013 .....	1,200	3,100	3,000	5,000	8,800	9,500	30,600
2014 .....	1,200	3,100	3,000	5,000	8,700	9,500	30,500
2015 .....	1,100	3,100	3,000	5,100	8,700	9,500	30,500
2016 .....	900	3,300	2,900	4,900	8,900	9,600	30,500
2017 .....	900	3,300	3,000	4,900	8,900	9,500	30,500
<b>Average Farm Size, acres</b>							
2013 .....	44	131	291	515	880	1,284	346
2014 .....	44	131	288	521	870	1,301	347
2015 .....	41	131	288	526	879	1,301	349
2016 .....	35	139	282	505	890	1,333	351
2017 .....	34	139	283	505	918	1,338	351

## United States Farms and Land in Farms

The number of farms in the United States for 2017 is estimated at 2.05 million, down 12 thousand farms from 2016. Total land in farms, at 910 million acres, decreased 1 million acres from 2016. The average farm size for 2017 is 444 acres, up 2 acres from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are differentiated by six economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these six sales classes by summing the sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, \$500,000, and \$1,000,000. Producers were asked during the 2017 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2016 calendar year.

Point Farms are farms that did not have the required minimum \$1,000 in sales for the year to qualify as a farm, but had sufficient crops and livestock to normally have sales of \$1,000 or more. Point Farms are assigned a sales class based on the sum of the agricultural point (dollar) values assigned to the quantity of commodities produced but not sold. The 2012 Census of Agriculture showed that 428,810 farms or 20.3 percent of the 2.11 million farms were Point Farms. These Point Farms operated 63.0 million acres or 6.9 percent of the 914.5 million acres of farmland.

Number of farms declined by 12 thousand from 2016. The number of farms in Sales Classes \$100,000 - \$249,999 and \$1,000,000 or more increased while all other sales classes declined. Fifty percent of all farms had less than \$10,000 in sales. Eighty percent of all farms had less than \$100,000 in sales. Eight percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

### Number of Farms and Average Farm Size – United States: 2010-2017

